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Occupational Employment and Wages in Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, 2014

Workers in the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $23.15 in May 2014, about 2 percent above the nationwide average of $22.71, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were higher than their respective national averages in 2 of the 22 major occupational groups, sales and related, and office and administrative support. Eleven groups had wages that were measurably lower than their respective national averages, included in this grouping were construction and extraction; life, physical, and social science; and transportation and material moving.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, Austin employment was more highly concentrated in 8 of the 22 occupational groups including computer and mathematical; office and administrative support; and food preparation and serving related. Conversely, 8 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including transportation and material moving; production; and healthcare practitioners and technical. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos		United States	Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos		Percent difference[1]
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%		$22.71	$23.15		2
Management	5.0	4.9		54.08	54.95		2
Business and financial operations	5.1	6.1	*	34.81	34.02	*	-2
Computer and mathematical	2.8	5.7	*	40.37	39.02	*	-3
Architecture and engineering	1.8	3.0	*	39.19	40.29		3
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.9		33.69	28.47	*	-15
Community and social service	1.4	1.1	*	21.79	20.97	*	-4
Legal	0.8	1.1	*	48.61	47.59		-2
Education, training, and library	6.2	6.3		25.10	22.99	*	-8
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.7	*	26.82	25.89		-3
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	4.4	*	36.54	34.63	*	-5
Healthcare support	2.9	2.0	*	13.86	14.01		1
Protective service	2.4	2.2	*	21.14	21.16		0
Food preparation and serving related	9.1	10.4	*	10.57	10.42		-1
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	3.0	*	12.68	11.47	*	-10
Personal care and service	3.1	3.0		12.01	12.09		1
Sales and related	10.5	11.0	*	18.59	20.49	*	10
Office and administrative support	16.0	17.9	*	17.08	17.48	*	2
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	NA		12.09	11.12		-8

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos		United States	Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos		Percent difference[1]
Construction and extraction	3.9	3.8		22.40	18.15	*	-19
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.4	*	21.74	20.00	*	-8
Production	6.6	3.9	*	17.06	15.84	*	-7
Transportation and material moving	6.8	4.1	*	16.57	14.95	*	-10

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.
Note: * The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group – computer and mathematical – was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos had 50,920 jobs in computer and mathematical, accounting for 5.7 percent of local area employment, more than double the the 2.8-percent national share. The local average hourly wage for computer and mathematical workers, $39.03, was one of the higher among the 22 major groups. However, the wage for the local occupational group was about 3 percent below the respective national average of $40.37.

With employment of 9,610, applications software developers was one of the largest occupations within the computer and mathematical group, as were computer systems analysts (8,410) and computer user support specialists (7,710). Among the higher paying jobs were computer network architects and software developers of systems software, with mean hourly wages of $57.88 and $47.53, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were computer user support specialists ($24.07) and computer network support specialists ($29.42). (Detailed occupational data for computer and mathematical are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_12420.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See table 1.) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Austin metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the detailed occupations within the computer and mathematical group. For instance, software developers of systems software were employed at 2.5 times the national average in Austin. Similarly, computer systems analysts in Austin were employed at 2.4 times the national average, among the highest rates in all metropolitan areas for this particular occupation. On the other hand, statisticians had a location quotient of 1.1 in Austin, indicating that this occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Texas Workforce Commission.

Note

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are also surveyed, but their data are not included in the national estimates. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year. May 2014 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, November 2012, May 2012, and November 2011. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 74.3 percent based on establishments and 70.5 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.1 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area included 5,001 establishments with a response rate of 56 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and 821 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas. In addition, employment and wage estimates for 94 minor groups and 458 broad occupations are available in the national data. OES data by state and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan area are available from www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm and www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm, respectively.

The May 2014 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties in Texas.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southwest. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2014

Occupation[1]	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level[2]	Location quotient[3]	Hourly	Annual[4]
Computer and mathematical occupations	50,920	2.0	$39.02	$81,160
Computer and information research scientists	180	1.1	57.40	119,400
Computer systems analysts	8,410	2.4	38.17	79,390
Information security analysts	440	0.8	43.56	90,600
Computer programmers	3,350	1.7	42.31	88,000
Software developers, applications	9,610	2.1	45.72	95,090
Software developers, systems software	6,160	2.5	47.53	98,850
Web developers	1,870	2.4	33.98	70,690
Database administrators	1,530	2.1	35.94	74,750
Network and computer systems administrators	4,140	1.7	38.34	79,750
Computer network architects	1,790	2.0	57.88	120,390
Computer user support specialists	7,710	2.1	24.07	50,060
Computer network support specialists	2,690	2.4	29.42	61,190
Computer occupations, all other	1,640	1.2	40.56	84,360
Actuaries	120	0.9	46.48	96,690
Operations research analysts	1,070	1.9	34.06	70,840
Statisticians	190	1.1	40.33	83,890

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_12420.htm.
(2) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.
(3) The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.
(4) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a 'year-round, full-time' hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.